

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph at page 5, lines 16-22, with the following:

In the drawing, each CCD camera performs the imaging operation based on predetermined settings. The settings include camera parameters which a camera usually has, such as shutter speed, ~~focal length~~ focal length, and diaphragm. According to this embodiment, these camera parameters can be changed automatically/manually and such automatic and manual operations can be switchable.

Please replace the paragraph at page 9, line 24, through page 10, line 4, with the following:

In the first embodiment, the sample settings are obtained by placing each CCD camera in automatic change mode. However, the present invention is not limited to this embodiment and alternatively, a sensor to measure the brightness of an object or the distance to the object may be provided in proximity to ~~of~~ each CCD camera. New settings of each CCD camera can be determined in a similar manner to the first embodiment by connecting the sensor to the distributor.

Please replace the paragraph at page 13, lines 3-13, with the following:

As a first example, an error (herein a difference in luminance) of an overlapping portion between adjacent images (one overlapping portion located on either side of an

image of interest) is determined for every overlapping ~~portion~~ portion (that is, all overlapping portions between images). Then a luminance value transformation is determined to minimize the sum of errors (for example, through a least square method). This transformation may vary among the overlapping portions but the sum of errors on the whole overlapping portions can be minimized by performing a different transformation for each overlapping portion.